



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Boqueron Field Office
P.O. Box 491
Boqueron, Puerto Rico 00622

December 18, 2000



Mr. Christopher Penny, REM
Atlantic Division
Environmental Division
1510 Gilbert St.
Norfolk, VA

Re: Vieques

Dear Mr. Penney:

It was a pleasure meeting you on Vieques, enclosed are the posters as promised. Once the lands are transferred our major concern will most likely be the mangrove disposal area since it probably received numerous waste streams from the different operations on the islands. Its proximity to the Kiani Lagoon channel and location within mangrove wetlands is a cause for concern. Leachate from the site could easily be reaching and impacting wildlife in the area. I look forward to working with you next year. Another agency that should be brought into the picture is NOAA since they would be a Natural Resource Trustee and the waters around Vieques are designated Essential Fish Habitat. I've worked with Lisa Rosman the NOAA Coastal Resource Coordinator in New York. It's best to bring them in early so that in the RI/FS stage you don't get hung up by a new player. Merry Christmas, I'll see you in Vieques next year.

Sincerely,

Felix Lopez
Ecologist